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Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 07855 181250Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----------017208 181252Z /42
O R 181224Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6264
AMEMBASSY KABUL IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 07855

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: SHUM AF
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN

REF: STATE 126022

1. EMBOFF CARRIED OUT INSTRUCTIONS IN REFTEL WITH WHITE, HEAD OF FCO SOUTH ASIA DEPT., ON MAY 18. WHITE SAID FCO HAD NOT RECEIVED MUCH HARD INFORMATION ON THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN, CERTAINLY NOT AS MUCH AS HAS BEEN REPORTED BY AMERICAN EMBASSY IN KABUL. HOWEVER, YESTERDAY FCO HAD RECEIVED WORD THAT THE RUMORS OF WHOLESALE VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN AFGHANISTAN HAD PROVOKED SOME FORM OF EXPRESSION OF CONCERN OR VOCAL PROTEST ON THE PART OF THE WIVES OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS IN KABUL. WHITE CHARACTERIZED THIS AS AN "UNOFFICIAL" MANIFESTATION.
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2. WITH REGARD TO THE QUESTION OF A PARALLEL APPROACH BY THE BRITISH, WHITE SAID HE WOULD FIRST HAVE TO SEND A TELEGRAM TO KABUL SEEKING SOME HARDER INFORMATION. THE ISSUE WOULD THEN HAVE TO BE REFERRED TO THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL HERE. WHITE SAID A MINISTERIAL DECISION WOULD TO SOME DEGREE REFLECT THE STATE OF BRITISH PUBLIC

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OPINION ON THE ISSUE. HE COMMENTED THAT PUBLIC OPINION IN BRITAIN SOMETIMES GETS WORKED UP OVER VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN SOME COUNTRIES, BUT NOT IN OTHERS. SO FAR, THE FCO HAS NOT RECEIVED INDICATIONS THAT THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN HAS ATTRACTED MUCH PUBLIC INTEREST IN BRITAIN.

3. EMBOFF ON DEPARTING SAID WE WOULD BE AWAITING A REPLY FROM HIM ON OUR APPROACH.

4. FOR KABUL: WE RECOMMEND THAT YOU CONVEY TO THE BRITISH EMBASSY THERE AS MUCH INFORMATION AS YOU CAN ON THIS ISSUE, BEARING IN MIND THE EXTRAORDINARILY HIGH DEGREE OF PROTECTION THE BRITISH GIVE TO CLASSIFIED INFORMATION. IF SUCH INFORMATION IS FURNISHED TO THE BRITISH EMBASSY BEFORE THE LATTER SENDS ITS REPORTING TELEGRAM, IT COULD CONSTRUCTIVELY AFFECT THE FCO RECOMMENDATION TO THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL.

STREATOR

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NNN

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Message Attributes

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